

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 IO-10

AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /129 W

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R 260430Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4099

UNCLAS SUVA 701

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD FJ

SUBJ: INFORMATION ON SUGAR IN FIJI

REF: STATE 141876

INFO ON SUGAR IN FIJI IN REPLY TO PARA TWO OF REFTEL-

(A) CURRENT COST OF PRODUCTION OF RAW SUGAR IS APPROX U.S.  
THREE CENTS PER POUND.

(B) REFINED WHITE SUGAR, ALL OF WHICH MUST BE IMPORTED,  
RETAILS FOR U.S. EIGHTY-THREE CENTS PER POUND.

(C) AVERAGE UNIT VALUE OF 1974 RAW SUGAR EXPORTS WAS U.S.  
FIFTEEN CENTS PER POUND.

(D) ROUGH PROJECTIONS OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF RAW SUGAR  
THROUGH 1980, IN LONG TONS:

YEAR	EXPORTS	PRODUCTION
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1975	315,000	341,000
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1976	330,000	355,000
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1977	340,000	368,000
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1978	350,000	372,000
1979	360,000	386,000
1980	370,000	400,000

INCREASED FIGURES ARE VERY ROUGH, BASED ON GOF PRODUCTION HOPES FOR 1980. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT SOME SHORTFALLS WILL OCCUR, PARTICULARLY IF WORLD SUGAR PRICES FALL.

(E) GOF IS PLANNING MAJOR EXPENDITURES ON SUGAR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. LARGEST SINGLE SCHEME IS AT SEQAQA, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION BY 25,000 LONG TONS BY 1979.

(F) DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION IS CURRENTLY 26,000 LONG TONS PER YEAR. THIS COULD INCREASE 15-20 PER CENT BY 1980, DEPENDING ON ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF INDUSTRIES.

(G) GOF HAS NUMBER OF LONG TERM EXPORT COMMITMENTS. LARGEST IS NEW EC-ACP AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH FIJI HAS APPLIED TO SUPPLY 166,000 LONG TONS, OR HALF ITS CROP, TO EC, PRIMARILY U.K. PRICE WAS DETERMINED THROUGH MULTI-LATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. LESSER LONG TERM SUPPLY AGREEMENTS ARE HELD WITH NEW ZEALAND, MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE. LARGEST OF THESE IS NEW ZEALAND, TO WHICH FIJI HOPES TO EXPORT 40,000 LONG TONS IN 1975-1976 YEAR. UNDER THIS AGREEMENT NEW ZEALAND MAY SURPASS U.S. AS SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR FIJI SUGAR. PRICE IS DETERMINED THROUGH GOVT. TO GOVT. NEGOTIATIONS.

(H) BECAUSE OF SUGAR'S IMPORTANCE TO FIJI'S ECONOMY, GOF TAKES ACTIVE ROLE AT ALL LEVELS OF INDUSTRY. PRODUCTION IS ENCOURAGED THROUGH LOANS TO FARMERS FROM FIJI DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND BY FIJI SUGAR CORPORATION, STATUTORY BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MILLING AND OTHER PHASES OF INDUSTRY. EXPORT CONTROLS ASSURE ADEQUATE DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF RAW SUGAR AT REASONABLE PRICES. GOF MAKES ALL MAJOR DECISIONS ON SUGAR EXPORT.  
HALL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUGAR, PRODUCTION DATA, EXPORT DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SUVA00701  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750223-0551  
**From:** SUVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750611/aaaaakfx.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 141876  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INFORMATION ON SUGAR IN FIJI  
**TAGS:** EPAP, ETRD, FJ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006